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Finance Committee Minutes 04-16-2003

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

7:30 PM O'Neill room, community safety building
 4/16/03

ATTENDEES:

Janowitz	Feinleib	O'Riordan*	O'Neill*	Mahoney
DeCoursey*	Connors*	Simmons	Morrisette*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Piandes	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Tosi	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: School Superintendent Kathleen Donovan, School Committee members Suzanne Owayda (Chair), Joani LaMachia, Jeff Thielman, David Kale (former School Business Manager), Principal Bob Penta (Brackett), Principal Gerald Carmody (Hardy), Principal Alan Brown (Stratton), Principal Marilyn Flaherty (Peirce), Janet Collins (Business Office), Principal Steve Woodcock (AHS), Principal Michael McCabe (Thompson), Marilyn Bisbicos (SPED), Robin Schoenthaler.

MINUTES of 4/14/03 accepted as corrected. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 56 CAPITAL BUDGET: Foskett stated that the Reed's Brook funding had been budgeted so that only 1 year (to FY05) instead of a 2-year Park Circle Fire Station delay would suffice.

BUDGET 19 EDUCATION: Donovan reviewed the educational challenges facing the schools and the department's goals. Kale, using a handout, walked the Finance Committee through three budgets: the level-service budget of \$34 million, a 6.7% increase from FY03, a \$28.8 million budget, which meets the original O'Neill Formula goals (\$5.1 million or 15.1% reduction), and a \$31.8 million budget (same as FY03, a \$2.1 million or 6.3% reduction from level service), which could be funded with an override. He described each of the 51 reductions. The override-dependent budget would cut fewer teachers and programs. Owayda described the School Committee's participation in the budget process. Finance Committee members complimented the School Department on their prompt and effective response to the budget challenge. Members also asked a variety of questions about how the reductions would be carried out. Members made statements both supporting and questioning the override.

COMMITTEE: The Finance Committee agreed to sponsor a girls' softball team for \$200. Kneeland to collect \$10 per member. The Chair again reminded all members to review entire budget & forward questions to appropriate subcommittee in hopes of saving time during budget reviews. Meetings are planned for 4/23, 4/26 Saturday 8:30 a.m., 4/30, 5/3 Saturday 8:30 a.m. Tosti is planning to have the Finance Committee Report ready for Town Meeting on 5/7.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE \$300,000

Peter B. Howard
 Secretary

Budget & Article Action Summary

Bud #	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote	Art#	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote/ assigned to
1					11	2/19	2/19	by law chng	11-2
2					13	2/8	2/8	support	
3					14	2/19		no report	
4					17	2/19		no report	
5					20	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
6					21	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
7					23				Foskett
8					24				
9					25	2/19		no report	

